



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Maternal mental health is an issue of great concern to new mothers and fathers and their families and physicians and is, therefore, of interest to the state of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: Many women are not adequately informed about, or screened or treated for pregnancy and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders because they are uninsured, underinsured, lack access to comprehensive health care, or lack understanding of the disorder or where to go for care; and

WHEREAS: Heightened awareness and increased education of the incidence of pregnancy and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders is critical for all Minnesotans. Pregnancy and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders affect all categories of women and teenage girls regardless of age, race, or income level. New fathers are also afflicted and impacts on the family can be debilitating and profound, contributing significantly to adverse developmental and behavioral outcomes and attachment disorders in the young children of affected women and men; and

WHEREAS: Pregnancy and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders are highly treatable with therapeutic intervention, community-based supportive services, and medication; and

WHEREAS: It is critical that service providers and community support systems that interface with new mothers and fathers have a greater understanding of pregnancy and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders and critical factors in identifying mothers at risk in order to provide prompt diagnosis, treatment, and proper community-based services that work together to facilitate recovery.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2014, as:

MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 10th day of February.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE